

Michael Mery

February 6, 2007

TO: Ms. Farahnak and Ms. Billington,

FROM: Michael Mery

RE: IRWM Program – Second Cycle Funding

I am a member of the Tomales Bay Watershed Council and was the Council Chair for the first three years. We are a coalition of 30 groups, agencies and individuals, with all the stakeholder groups in the watershed participating in our planning process. The Tomales Bay Watershed Foundation is the recipient of a \$469,000 planning grant for preparation of an ICWMP (grant # 05-227-550-0) and acts as the fiscal agent for the Watershed Council.

We participated in the planning grant process with the expectation that preparation of the Plan would enable us to apply for Phase 2 Implementation funds to accomplish needed, prioritized projects within the watershed. We have collectively invested 100's of hours in pursuit of our final plan, an effort well on the way towards completion and adoption by June of 2007.

I have just learned of several important decisions that will be made in the next few months concerning future funding for the Prop 50 program and wish to make the following comments:

1. Please reserve funding for the second cycle of implementation grants for the Prop 50 program.
2. Please **do not** narrow the funding consideration for the next cycle of Phase 2 Implementation Funding allowing only the groups that have already submitted Phase 1 Implementation Grant applications for their adopted RWMP's. This would **exclude** groups that are currently in the planning grant cycle from any further Prop 50 funding eligibility resulting in a waste of resources and the loss of opportunity for significant improvement.
3. Please allocate a portion of the second cycle of Phase 2 Implementation funds to the unique and relatively small group of planning grants that cover ICWMP's. This would enable these regions to apply for implementation funds for prioritized projects identified in their soon to be adopted ICWMP's.

Thank-you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me using the contact information below for any additional information you require.

Respectfully,

